(d) if so, the number of projects which have been approved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) "Yes", Sir.

(b) The NHFDC was incorporated on 24th January, 1997 under Section 25 of the Companies Act, 1956. NHFDC has an authorised share capital of Rs. 400/- crores and a paid up capital of Rs. 200/- crores. The entire equity is held by Government of India. NHFDC is functioning as an apex financial institution for routing funds through the channelising agencies authorised by the State Govts./UT Administrations. The registered office of the NHFDC is at Faridabad (Haryana). The objective of the Corporation is to provide financial assistance for self employment and entrepreneurship development to persons with minimum disability of 40%. The disabled persons whose family income is upto five times the poverty line will be eligible for availing loan factility.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Dies not arise.

Legislation for Elderly Persons

1305. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Legal safety net urged to take care of the elderly" that appreared in 'The Times of India' dated the 17th May, 1998;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken to protect the interests of the elderly in our society?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As a measure of its concern for the care of the elderly, the Government has a number of on-going schemes for older persons including;

(i) Scheme of Assistance to Voluntary Organisations for programmes related to the Aged Under which Grants-in-Aid are provided to Voluntary Organisations for establishing and maintaining Old Age Homes, Day Care Centres and Mobile Medicare Unites for older persons.

(ii) Scheme of Assistance to Panchayti Raj Institutions/Voluntary Organisations under which Grants-in-Aid are provided to eligible organisations for construction of Old Age Homes.

(iii) The National Old Age Pension Scheme under which monthly pension is provided to the destitute elderly.

Further, provision alredy exists in the Code of Criminal Procedure 1973 regarding maintenance of parents by their children.

Increase in Aged Population

1306. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive study has been undertaken to measure the rate of increase in the number of aged people, especially beyond 60 years, and the economic and social problems they are facing today;

(b) if so, the results of the studies and remedial steps being taken to provide help and succour to the needy and helpless; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?